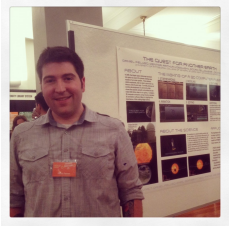
Monday, December 12

11:30 – 12:15 LUNCH ***The Quest for Another Earth***–Short film by Daniel Peluso (8 minutes, 42 seconds); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9GCrtIM7D8
https://vimeo.com/107776717

In 2009, the Kepler space telescope launched into space to search for planets orbiting stars outside of our solar system. These planets, called exoplanets, had no data to prove their existence until 20 years ago. Currently, because of exciting developments in astronomy, data shows that planets actually outnumber the estimated 200 billion stars in our galaxy. This 3D computer animation serves to highlight the importance of this cutting edge science. This short film spotlights the Allegheny Observatory where members of the research team, STEPUP (Survey of Transiting Extrasolar Planets at the University of Pittsburgh), actually perform astronomical observations of exoplanets. To ponder the wonders of the age old question of whether we are alone in the Universe, the animation also explores a recently discovered exoplanet, Kepler-186f, which is 500 light years from Earth and has been called an "Earth-cousin" by astronomers because of its similarity to Earth.

Funded by the Atlantic Coast Conference Inter-Institutional Academic Collaborative
Direction, Production, and Writing by Daniel Peluso
Narrated by Mike Boyer
Film Score by Jordan Wood
Science Advisor Arthur Kosowsky
Animation Consultant Dean Mougianis

This film was showcased at the AGU Cinema 2016 on Monday morning.



Daniel Peluso recently graduated (April 2016) from the University of Pittsburgh and received a B.S. in Natural Sciences, a B.A. in Media & Professional Communications, as well as a Certificate in Digital Media. In 2014, he was awarded the Atlantic Coast Conference Inter-Institutional Academic Collaborative (ACCIAC) Creativity & Innovation Fellowship and created the documentary, *The Quest for Another Earth.* The short documentary briefly explains the science of exoplanets and research done at the University of Pittsburgh. In the summer of 2015, Daniel was awarded the Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship and conducted geoscience research at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). Currently, he is a graduate student at the University of San Diego in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences' Master Credential Cohort Program. In the summer of 2017, he expects to graduate with a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physics and Earth & Space Science (geoscience, planetary science, etc.). After graduating, Daniel plans to enter into science education in the state of California and is determined to change the face of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education and inspire the next generation of astronauts, engineers, astronomers, and scientists of tomorrow.